

To Thomas Wentworth Higginson

April 3, 1852

Concord 2 Pm. Ap. 3^d '52

Dear Sir,

I certainly do not feel prepared to offer myself as a lecturer to the Boston *public*, and hardly know whether more to dread a small audience or a large one.¹ Nevertheless, I will repress this squeamishness, and propose no alteration in your arrangements. I shall be glad to accept of^a your invitation to tea.

Yrs

Henry D. Thoreau

Correspondent: See pp. 86-87.

¹ T's "Life in the Woods" lecture on April 6 was not a successful event. A "furious" snowstorm had all but blocked the entrance to the lecture hall, which was leased by a society of young mechanics. Higginson, Alcott, Dr. Walter Channing, and "at most three or four ticket-holders" found a group of young men reading newspapers in a room opening onto the hall and Alcott suggested moving the lecture to that reading room. He encouraged the readers to listen to what T had to say, with mixed results: "Some laid down their newspapers, more retained them; the lecture proved to be one of the most introspective chapters from 'Walden.' A few went to sleep, the rest rustled their papers" ("Glimpses of Authors" 1891, pp. 105-106).

Copy-text: ALS (TxAuHRH, Henry David Thoreau Collection, MS-4222, 1.3)

Published: *Life* 1890, 150; "Glimpses of Authors" 1891, 105; *FL* 1894, 228; *Reader's History* 1903, following p. 196; *FL* 1906, 189-190; *Cor* 1958, 280

Editor's Note

This letter is addressed "T. W. Higginson / Boston / Mass / Care of / Dr. W. Channing" and postmarked "Concord Ms. Apr 3".

Author's Alteration

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